

## **Definition of an Ambulatory Care Visit**

### **DEFINITION OF AN AMBULATORY CARE VISIT**

**Definition:** An encounter between a patient and health care provider in an organized clinic within an IHS (638 included) facility where service resulting from the encounter is not part of an inpatient stay.

**Requirement:** Patient or his/her representative must be physically present at the time of service.

\* Representative only to pick-up prescriptions.

Note written in the medical record by a licensed or credentialed provider found to be qualified and approved for privileges by the medical staff and facility administrator.

The date of the visit is the date the visit was initiated. e.g., Patient enters ER at 2330 and departs at 0100.

The following service is considered an Ambulatory Care Visit:

Patient served by physical or other provider within an IHS (or 638) facility where such service is documented and authenticated within the medical record.

**NOTES:** The category or provider must be listed within the IHS Standard Code Book.

A visit to two ORGANIZED APPROVED IHS (638) clinics on the same day counts as two Ambulatory Care Visits.

A visit to two physicians within the same IHS (638) clinic counts as one Ambulatory Care Visit.

Renal dialysis provided by contract provider in an IHS (638) facility will be counted as a physician provided Ambulatory Care Visit.

A dental prescription filled in the pharmacy is a pharmacy visit.

The following services are not an Ambulatory Care Visit:

- A prescription change based upon telephone conversation between provider and patient is not an Ambulatory Care Visit.
- Follow-up communication by telephone or letter is not an Ambulatory Care Visit.
- A letter written by a physician or other provider on behalf of a patient.
- A visit to provide patient care within a nursing home.
- Patient Care provided to patients in any non-IHS (638) facility.
- Patient care that is not documented and authenticated in the medical records.
- Patient care provided by Community Health Representatives. (CHR's)

### **CONTRACT HEALTH REPORTING**

Similar encounters in the private sector that are purchased by the IHS will be counted as CHS visits.

### **DENTAL VISITS**

Dental visits are not defined as Ambulatory Care Visits for purposes of the IHS statistical reporting.

Dental visits that are purchased by the IHS will be counted as CHS Dental visits.

This form is used to record services provided in group settings for entry into the PCC. Examples include blood pressure and hearing screenings; selected lab test results; PPD readings; and group education sessions where assessment of individual patient understanding is determined. Patients should be individually identified in the columns above and the individual services provided indicated for each patient. Different types of service can be recorded on a single form and multiple services may be recorded for individual patients.